

Sullivan County NH

**Type of Meeting: Board of Commissioners, Executive Finance
Committee and County Manager
County Grant Applicant Interviews**

Date/Time: ~~Friday, April 21, 2006, 8:15 AM~~

**Place: Newport County Complex -- 1st Floor --
Commissioners Conference Room.**

Attendees: Commissioner Donald Clarke – Chair, Ben Nelson – Vice Chair and Ethel Jarvis – Clerk; Ed Gil de Rubio – County Manager; Representatives Brenda Ferland – EFC Chair, Larry Converse, Stephen Prichard and John Cloutier – Delegation Chair.

Community Alliance: Transportation Services – Alison Jones/Kevin Cooney Request is for \$38,000

Ms. Jones discussed the use of the trolley to promote transportation in county. She noted it has 60,000 in mileage, is at the garage a couple times of month, the tires run about \$300 a piece, it has had a recent brake job and overall the entire bus is expensive to maintain. The bus was acquired through a transportation grant and they are required to come up with a certain percentage. They have three other vehicles that, as they age, require constant maintenance. She noted the maintenance is contracted, mainly through S. G. Reed as they are the only place with a lift to hold the vehicles. The \$38,000 will be specifically used to meet the operational cost of vehicles, fuel – 1,200 gallons used in vehicles, 8 driver salaries, 2 mornings per week increase demand, but mainly increase from last year is due to rising costs. They coordinate transportation with the Day Out Program and NH Employment program. Mr. Cooney noted County funds would be allocated as shown on their budget form, and they will report quarterly. It was noted the County pays 10% of the budget. They indicated they are working with Dept of Transportation and have another grant proposal in. With another grant they placed 2 ½ years ago, they will be getting a new vehicle in a month. Vehicles cost around \$60,000, they are required to provide match. Ms. Jones noted the drivers are all part time and have no health insurance. She noted she also cuts cost by not having health insurance herself and goes to the VA. They have a planning grant they will be using to look at: route schedules, ridership, efficiencies and rates. She noted the trolley will have to be used 2-3 years more and they will then need to wait for replacement of the vehicle. Rep. Prichard asked about a CMAC project for the upper valley. Ms. Jones noted it was in a holding pattern, due to flexibility and funding issues. She noted the discretionary funds were lost as it took more than 9 months to go through the system. She indicated Councilor Burton and Senator Sununu are trying to help out and that the Endowment for Health has been contacted to support that program. They have people committed to it, but no funds collected until they are firm they will receive the grant. Prichard noted he asked about the project, as fuel prices are skyrocketing and they will begin cutting back on driving, so buses will be essential. Prichard noted if they have immediate concerns with letter of support to let them know. Mr. Cooney pointed out Prichard and Gil de Rubio have already supported them.

Claremont Soup Kitchen – Jan Bunnell**Request for \$10,000. Amended to \$15,000 in this interview.**

Ms. Bunnell noted that 2006, when compared to 2005, has been rougher. She pointed out they never had contact with any Washington people, but now have five. They are placing pamphlets in different social services agency. USDA food services are being cut and phased out of the senior program so they will no longer receive the surplus commodity foods. WIC program, for children will be cut. The government is decreasing from 14-15 products to five, which places a strain on the budget. She noted when the County grants application was submitted, they were not aware of the government cuts. Also, Claremont city funding of \$5,000 was cut. Mr. Gil de Rubio asked if she wanted to amend her application, and for what dollar amount. She concurred she did and would like to amend the application to add \$5,000. She also pointed out United Way cut funds.

Commissioner Clarke commended Ms. Bunnell on the “phenomenal job of fund raising”. He added this probably is one of the reasons her program had funding cuts. In the budget report on the application she clarified that the initials “FP” stood for Food Pantry. She noted they used to employ 1 FTE with benefits who did part time work on food pantry and in the kitchen. They split the position to part timers so that they did not have to pay health care on the full time position. Accordingly, they have a part time cook and part time food pantry person. She noted they used to put out letters requesting volunteers, but now have a list. She noted on the donation cards they send out, they request volunteers and from those responses keep a list. They mail 24,000 fund raising letters twice a year and use a group of senior citizens of about 20 – with the group continuing to grow. The group spends from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. together, having a great time while they put together the envelopes. During the event they are provided snacks and drinks. Rumor of kitchen moving is still up in the air. Repairs to the building may be too much for the diocese. She meets this year to draw up a new rent contract. It cost \$10,000 for annual rent. They pay \$7,500 a year, and pay the balance of $\frac{3}{4}$ of all the building expenses at the end of the year. Building expenses include: water, sewage, heating and plowing.

**Purchasing Alliance of NH - Andrew Fennelly and First Congregational Church
Pastor Win Alley****Request for \$6,000**

They are creating a non-profit corporation to provide more affordable health insurance in Sullivan County and throughout NH. He noted historically, tradesmen could form a group to get discounts, but they can no longer do this, and must go out to the market to purchase insurance. Through their formation of a purchasing alliance, these types of small businesses can now come together as a group. The product is available to 50 or fewer, as few as one. They would be able to attain the special rate through the alliance. During the development of the alliance, they’ve run in to a slight problem with HB414 – which would have help those forming purchasing alliance form them easier. However, the bill was killed. That statute was to sunset, and we are the only application within the deadline to get in. They are continuing to move forward. Pastor Alley is a producer and licensed to write insurance policies. They are working with all the chamber of

commences and will affect all towns in Sullivan and throughout NH. Currently, they are on a slim budget and do not want to spend much until they get the alliance created. They are licensed as *NH Chamber benefits Corp.*, a licensed agency owned by the alliance. They have community-based services as fiscal agent. They intend to be a non-profit. They are currently using a Vermont model – four employees, insuring 8,000 to 9,000. Mr. Fennely noted there is an educational side of this. Win noted one of the primary funding avenues would be through health savings accounts. They are currently doing business as an insurance agency, not as a purchasing alliance, but are working to attain the status of the alliance, a status the state can give. When the legislation failed, they reverted back to the original legislation, so now they have to go back and jump through all the hoops to get to the alliance status under the old plan. Alliance licensure is what they need to get the prices down, as it allows them to negotiate the price. The alliance licensure will take time, but they are receiving guidance through an attorney. Mr. Fennelly discussed how the County grants funding would be applied, with most going to legal council to attain the licensure. He noted the budget was broken in to four categories and briefly discussed that along with the time line. They have not approached other communities individually. They have 30 quotes and 150 companies that want the business.

Women's Supportive Services – Deb Mozden
Request for \$55,000

Group discussed the statistics page and services discussed. Ms. Mozden noted that people are counted only once on the reports, so numbers are unduplicated. If several programs are done at a school with a class, the numbers reflect just one count of the child. Goals and objects provide scope of program services. Ms. Mozden discussed total budget. She noted they are not a national organization, but are advised of legislative items that affect domestic and sexual violence from the two national organizations. They are members at the state level. Several governments they received State/Federal funding for monitor them. Ms. Mozden is doing program development and has written 13 grants over the last few weeks. Their Board of ten is stepping up to do the fund raising. County money is used to make sure they have services or education, there is some administrative costs but those are linked to the programs such as supervision of the program director or the data input person. Ms. Mozden briefed over the page 10 budget that showed the County portion. County money helps maintain the services they have been providing. They still have to find an additional \$53,000 to pay a program services position. Long-term research – they do not participate in, but turn their data over to the grantors that request specific data. There is national research. There is no cost in budget for collection of the data.

Lake Sunapee Area Mediation Program – Dave Osgood, Deputy Executive For South Western Community Services, which oversees LSAMP
Request for \$10,000

He noted Ms. Rebecca Morley was unable to attend the changed grant interview date. There are three parts to the program regardless of income. There is a sliding fee scale if

someone is able to pay for the services, other than that they are provided free of charge. They have 15 trained mediators, and Ms. Morley trains the volunteers to mediate. They receive referrals from court system, school system, human services agencies and police departments. They have the Youth and Family mediation - where families are at their wits end. Ms. Morley brings them to talk with them individually, then as a family - discussing how they can communicate affectively. Numbers reflects one count for each person. Revisits are not counted again. Comm. Jarvis noted Unity count of 65 seemed pretty high compared to other towns, and wondered if, for example, they included the DOC. Mr. Gil de Rubio left the room to find out that DOC does not use Lake Sunapee, but noted some future collaboration with the DOC. Mr. Osgood will check on the Unity count, and get back to Commissioner Jarvis. It was noted, 106 kids in Sullivan county were served on the youth program and that 16 marital cases were served, eight of which there was no charge for. They referred two of the cases to West Central due to disabilities. They are working with three elementary schools in Claremont through the teachers and principals, teaching kids on how to resolve conflicts - this is not an anti bullying program. He noted, after three months of mediation, a survey is sent to find the success rate. If no response is received, there is a follow up visit. They find there is a 96% success rate at end of six months. They hold workshops at homeless shelters and have worked with both Newport and Claremont head start programs. Mr. Osgood noted Ms. Morley works 40 hours a week and is paid \$27,500, with benefits. When they missed the 2005 they removed their travel expense and Ms. Morley's salary expense was reduced to continue work the work. Prichard pointed out the board seems large and with only \$2,000 donations reflect, he wondered if they could help more through fund raising. Mr. Osgood noted Ms. Morley's program does not have her own board and Southwestern provides clerical/administrative services. Mr. Prichard expressed surprised that the larger organization does get more involved in fund raising to support the smaller programs such as Ms. Morley's.

Community Alliance: Family Services - Greg Vigue and Kevin Cooney
Requested amount is \$29,500

Mr. Vigue handed out brochures that provide to families and police departments. He noted the diversion program is to increase accountability in kids, working with schools to make sure they are doing well - they have contracts with kids to do better. They seen a rash of kids causing trouble on buses, so created a youth safety brochure, gearing towards the younger audience - connecting the kids to what they have done to reflect on it. Kids are doing PowerPoint presentations on the computer - he proved an example of one kid who was connected to a marijuana offence - under the influence while driving. The youth was request to research the affects of marijuana and to create a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Vigue follows up to ask questions on the subject, making sure they retain the information they collect. He noted they have eight kids in the anger management class, a four day course. He discussed a marketing campaign with the police chiefs and schools. Mr. Cooney noted Mr. Vigue also spoke at Newport and Sunapee Revite and three weeks ago participated in a community forum. They don't solicit funds at those events. Mr. Cooney noted they have a webpage for their program. Mr. Vigue discussed other grants they have, and what they are used for. \$29,500 will be

used in the diversion program, \$15,000 tobacco and alcohol education, and family resource center, Mr. Cooney noted the disbursement of the expenses was noted in their proposed budget chart. They indicated town revenue comes from Charlestown, Unity, Sunapee, Lempster, and they are awaiting responses for request for funds from other towns.

Good Beginnings – Ellie Tsetsi

Requested amount is \$20,000

The visitation is new and before families went to Keene or Concord. Children separated from a parent, are often times referred to the visitation center. Any agency in the county that provides these services can use their visitation center. South Western Community Services uses it. It has a living room, kitchen, toy room, separate entrances so that custodial and non custodial parents do not have to see each other if that is a problem. Police officers can observe visitations. Ms. Tsetsi noted there is greater and greater need for the service and County funding is critical as there is little funding coming from the state. Funding from state comes from Dept of Justice and is going to a visitation center in White River for this region. Ms. Tsetsi noted there was a cooperative that indicates who can run a visitation center and where, and how the cooperative will not allow Good Beginnings to join. If they could be part of this, those funds could be redirected to the Claremont based center. Ms. Tsetsi noted they are finalist for the Smith Award – an excellence in service to families award.

Newport Enrichment Team – Sam Clough NET Executive Director and Darlene Ayotte – NET Board Chair

Requested amount is \$20,000

For the past 2 ½ years NET worked in mainly the community of Newport, and operates the teen center. They have logged about 2,000 contacts. Since September 1st they have logged 3,116 contact hours at the teen center alone. They are looking at how they can have this success in the surrounding towns such as Goshen, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity and Washington, through once a week after school programming, designed specifically for that community. They have the support from Bill Mealy, Chief Cahill and the Principals from both Unity and Lempster. They have found that transportation is a tremendous barrier, so want to bring the programming to them. They work with grade 6-12 all adolescents, and some teens come to the teen center with younger siblings. The \$20,000 is for staff time, travel expense, time to expand the program to those other communities. We hope to have a youth assistant counselor through another grant. Our board donates in-kind with time to do programs and some purchasing. Fund raising is done when special projects are requested by the kids. They recently mailed fund raising letters to 150 to raise funds for the teen center. They are planning a charity motorcycle rally to do fundraising. The Board just wrote a grant through the corporate fund to develop a fund raising plan. The goal is to diversify. Mr. Gil de Rubio spoke of how NET began by funds through the Workforce Opportunity Council (WOC), Incentive Monies, County grant and NH DJJS. Funds through sources started the program; and through the program they found kids wanted a place to hang out and call their own, so created the teen center. NET applied for 501C and other funds to replace other funding. NET is receiving Plus Time of NH funds and are they are doing strategic planning. We

found through the planning we need a larger board, and are working on that. Want to make our programs effective as possible without duplicating services, and fill in with program through the Newport Recreation Department and Planned Parenthood. Long term goal is a prevention piece. Ms. Clough is on the books for for 32 hours, but works more. When they go out in to the outer communities, they will be looking first at the schools for space. NET anticipates opening "movie night" in Newport for outer communities to attend.

The group discussed the \$150,000 placed in FY07 proposed budget. Mr. Gil de Rubio noted the Good Beginning's application was late. Commissioner Clarke and Mr. Gil de Rubio expressed reservations of issuing grant to the Purchasing Alliance of NH as they are currently a privately owned insurance agency, not a non profit with a 501(C). Rep. Prichard noted it was a great investment to have organizations that are community based and encouraging them to do fund raising to support themselves. Rep. Ferland noted the EFC will now debate and discuss during the upcoming meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ethel Jarvis".

*Ethel Jarvis, Clerk
Board of Commissioners*

EJ/s.j-c.